

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 9, 11 and 21.

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently Amended) A The plurality of masonry articles according to Claim 1 wherein comprising, in combination:

a first header and a second header for each of said plurality of masonry articles, a contoured portion of said first header of each of said plurality of masonry articles for coupling to a contoured portion of another second header of another one of said plurality of masonry articles, and a contoured portion of said second header of each one of said plurality of masonry articles for coupling to a contoured portion of one other first header of one other of said plurality of masonry articles so that an outward face of a portion of a wall assembled with said plurality of masonry articles has a mortar-like vertically oriented gap;

said first header of each of said plurality of masonry articles comprises a first projecting portion, a second projecting portion and an end-recessed portion of each of said plurality of masonry articles, said end-recessed portion located between said first projecting portion and said second projecting portion of said first header of each of said plurality of masonry articles;

said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles comprises a first opposite projecting portion, a second opposite projecting portion, a first inner recessed portion, a second inner recessed portion and an opposite recessed portion of each of said plurality of masonry articles, said first opposite projecting portion adjacent to said first inner recessed portion of said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles, said second opposite projecting portion adjacent to said second inner recessed portion of

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said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles, said opposite recessed portion located between said first inner recessed portion and said second inner recessed portion of said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles so that said first header of each of said plurality of masonry articles couples to one other second header of one other of said plurality of masonry articles and said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles couples to said other first header of one other of said plurality of masonry articles to provide the portion of the wall; and

said plurality of masonry articles when assembled to provide a portion of the wall having a contoured front face, said plurality of masonry articles when assembled to provide a portion of the wall having a lower base and a contoured upper base of each of said plurality of masonry articles configured for coupling a portion of said contoured upper base of each of said plurality of masonry articles to a portion of a lower base of one of the other plurality of masonry articles so that the outward face of the portion of the wall assembled with all of said plurality of masonry articles has a mortar-like horizontally oriented gap.

3. (Currently Amended) The plurality of masonry articles according to Claim [[1]] 2 further comprising a surface of said contoured front face of each of said plurality of masonry articles having an elevated portion and said elevated portion of the surface of said contoured front face adjacent to an indented portion of the surface of said contoured front face, said indented portion extending from an end of said first header to said elevated portion, so that the outward face of the portion of the wall assembled with said plurality of masonry articles provide the appearance of the mortar-like vertically oriented gap and the mortar-like horizontally oriented gap.

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4. (Original) The plurality of masonry articles according to Claim 3 further comprising an opposite indented portion of the surface of a back face extending from the end of said first header of each of said plurality of masonry articles, said indented portion of the surface of said contoured front face of greater width compared to said opposite indented portion of the surface of said back face, a first opposite projecting portion of said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles and a second opposite projecting portion of said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles having substantially the same width as the width of said opposite indented portion of the surface of said back face of said first header of each of said plurality of masonry articles, so that when each of said plurality of masonry articles couples adjacently to one other of said plurality of masonry articles, said indented portion of said contoured front face of each of said plurality of masonry articles provides the appearance of a vertically oriented mortar-like gap.

5. (Original) The plurality of masonry articles according to Claim 4 further comprising said back face substantially parallel to said contoured front face, a lower portion of said indented portion of the surface of said contoured front face having a substantially L-shaped step, a lower portion of said back face comprising a substantially opposite L-shaped step, said opposite L-shaped step of the back face and said L-shaped step of the contoured front face having substantially the same height, so that when the portion of said contoured upper base of each of said plurality of masonry articles couples to the portion of said lower base of one of said other plurality of masonry articles the outward face of the portion of the wall assembled with all of said plurality of masonry articles has the appearance of the mortar-like horizontally oriented gap.

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6. (Currently Amended) The plurality of masonry articles according to Claim [[1]] 2 further comprising said contoured upper base of each of said plurality of masonry articles comprising a channel extending substantially horizontally from said first header to said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles and when the portion of said lower base of said plurality of masonry articles couples to the portion of said contoured upper base of one other of said plurality of masonry articles said channel providing an opening, said opening for accommodating a substantially horizontally oriented reinforcing rod and said opening for accommodating mortar.

7. (Currently Amended) The plurality of masonry articles according to Claim [[1]] 2 wherein each of said plurality of masonry articles has ~~a plurality of holes~~ at least one hole extending from said upper base to said contoured lower base, each of said ~~plurality of holes~~ at least one hole for accommodating a substantially vertically oriented reinforcing rod within each of said ~~plurality of holes~~ at least one hole and for accommodating mortar within each of said ~~plurality of holes~~ at least one hole.

8. (Currently Amended) The plurality of masonry articles according to Claim [[1]] 2 wherein the distance between each of said plurality of masonry articles adjacently coupled to one other of said plurality of masonry articles is selectively adjustable to accommodate variations in length of a course of the plurality of masonry articles of the portion of the wall.

9. (Cancelled)

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10. (Currently Amended) The collection of interlocking masonry articles according to Claim ~~[[9]]~~ 12 wherein said plurality of masonry articles comprises a first header and a second header for each of said plurality of masonry articles, a contoured portion of said first header of each of said plurality of masonry articles for coupling to a contoured portion of another second header of another one of said plurality of masonry articles, and a contoured portion of said second header of each one of said plurality of masonry articles for coupling to a contoured portion of one other first header of one other of said plurality of masonry articles so that an outward face of a portion of a wall assembled with said plurality of masonry articles has a mortar-like vertically oriented gap; said plurality of masonry articles when assembled to provide a portion of the wall having a contoured front face, said plurality of masonry articles when assembled to provide a portion of the wall having a lower base and a contoured upper base of each of said plurality of masonry articles configured for coupling a portion of said contoured upper base of each of said plurality of masonry articles to a portion of a lower base of one of the other plurality of masonry articles so that the outward face of the portion of the wall assembled with all of said plurality of masonry articles has a mortar-like horizontally oriented gap.

11. (Cancelled)

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12. (Currently Amended) A The collection of interlocking masonry articles according to Claim 11 further comprising, in combination:

a plurality of masonry articles also comprising a plurality of corner masonry articles and a plurality of alternative corner masonry articles, said plurality of masonry articles, said plurality of corner masonry articles and said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles together providing contoured shapes so that an outward face of a portion of a wall assembled with said plurality of masonry articles, said plurality of corner masonry articles and said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles provide the appearance of a plurality of mortar-like horizontally oriented and mortar-like vertically oriented gaps;

each of said plurality of corner masonry articles comprises a first corner header and a second corner header, a contoured portion of said first corner header of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles for coupling to a contoured portion of a second header of said plurality of masonry articles, and a contoured portion of said second corner header of each one of said plurality of corner masonry articles for coupling to a contoured portion of one other first header of one other of said plurality of masonry articles so that an outward face of a corner portion of a wall assembled with said plurality of corner masonry articles and said plurality of masonry articles has a mortar-like vertically oriented gap;

said plurality of corner masonry articles when assembled to provide a corner portion of the wall having a contoured front face, said plurality of corner masonry articles when assembled to provide a corner portion of the wall having a lower base and a contoured upper base of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles configured for coupling a portion of said contoured upper base of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles to a portion of a lower base of each of a combination of one of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles coupled to one of said plurality of masonry articles so

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that the outward face of the corner portion of the wall assembled with all of said plurality of interlocking masonry articles has a mortar-like horizontally oriented gap;

said plurality of corner masonry articles having a back face substantially parallel to said contoured front face of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, said first corner header of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles comprising a first projecting portion, a second projecting portion and an end-recessed portion for each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, said end-recessed portion located between said first projecting portion and said second projecting portion of said first corner header of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, said first corner header of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles projecting substantially perpendicularly from a portion of said back face of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles; and

said second corner header of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles comprising a first opposite projecting portion, a second opposite projecting portion, a first inner recessed portion, a second inner recessed portion and an opposite recessed portion for each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, said first opposite projecting portion adjacent to said first inner recessed portion of said second corner header of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, said second opposite projecting portion adjacent to said second inner recessed portion of said second corner header of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, said opposite recessed portion located between said first inner recessed portion and said second inner recessed portion of said second corner header of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, so that said first corner header of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles couples to said second header of one of said plurality of masonry articles and said second corner header of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles couples to one other first header of one other of said plurality of masonry articles to provide the corner portion of the wall.

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13. (Currently Amended) The collection of interlocking masonry articles according to Claim ~~[[11]]~~ 12 further comprising

a corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, said corner end opposite said second corner header of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles having a front-end face, a surface of said front-end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles having an elevated portion and said elevated portion of the surface of said front-end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles adjacent to an indented portion of the surface of said front-end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, said indented portion of the surface of said front-end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles extending from said first corner header to said contoured front face of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles;

a surface of said contoured front face of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles having an elevated portion and said elevated portion of the surface of said contoured front face of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles adjacent to an indented portion of the surface of said contoured front face of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, said indented portion of said contoured front face of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles extending from said corner end to said second corner header of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles so that the outward face of the corner portion of the wall assembled with said plurality of corner masonry articles provide the appearance of the mortar-like vertically oriented gap and the mortar-like horizontally oriented gap.

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14. (Original) The collection of interlocking masonry articles according to Claim 13 further comprising a back end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles having an opposite indented portion of the surface of said back end face of said corner end, said opposite indented portion extending from an end of said second horizontally projecting portion of said first corner header of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, said indented portion of the surface of said front-end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles of greater width compared to said opposite indented portion of the surface of said back end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, a first opposite projecting portion of said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles and a second opposite projecting portion of said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles having substantially the same width as the width of said opposite indented portion of the surface of said back end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, so that when said first header of one of said plurality of corner masonry articles couples adjacently to said second header of one of said plurality of masonry articles, said indented portion of said front-end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles provides the appearance of a vertically oriented mortar-like gap.

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15. (Original) The collection of interlocking masonry articles according to Claim 14 further comprising said back face of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles substantially parallel to said contoured front face of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, said back end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles substantially parallel to said front-end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, a lower portion of said indented portion of the surface of said contoured front face of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles substantially parallel to said contoured front face of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles having a substantially L-shaped step, a lower portion of said indented portion of said contoured end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles substantially parallel to said contoured end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles having a substantially L-shaped step, a lower portion of said back face substantially parallel to said contoured front face of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles comprising a substantially opposite L-shaped step and a lower portion of said back end face of said corner end back face of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles substantially parallel to said contoured end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles comprising a substantially opposite L-shaped step, said opposite L-shaped step of said back face, said opposite L-shaped step of said back end face of said corner end, said L-shaped step of said contoured front face and said L-shaped step of said front-end face of said corner end of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles having substantially the same height, so that when the portion of said contoured upper base of each of said corner plurality of masonry articles couples to the portion of said lower base of each of a combination of one of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles coupled to one of said plurality of masonry articles the outward face of the corner portion of the wall assembled with all of said plurality of interlocking

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masonry articles has the appearance of the mortar-like horizontally oriented gap.

16. (Currently Amended) The collection of interlocking masonry articles according to Claim ~~[[9]]~~ 12 wherein

each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles comprises a first alternative corner header and a second alternative corner header, a contoured portion of said first alternative corner header of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles for coupling to a contoured portion of a second header of said plurality of masonry articles, and a contoured portion of said second alternative corner header of each one of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles for coupling to a contoured portion of one other first header of one other of said plurality of masonry articles so that an outward face of an alternative corner portion of a wall assembled with said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles and said plurality of masonry articles has a mortar-like vertically oriented gap;

said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles when assembled to provide an alternative corner portion of the wall having a contoured front face of each of said plurality of alternative corner articles, said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles when assembled to provide an alternative corner portion of the wall having a lower base and a contoured upper base of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles configured for coupling a portion of said contoured upper base of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles to a portion of a lower base of each of a combination of one of said plurality of corner masonry articles coupled to one of said plurality of masonry articles so that the outward face of the alternative corner portion of the wall assembled with all of said plurality of interlocking masonry articles has a mortar-like horizontally oriented gap.

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17. (Currently Amended) The collection of interlocking masonry articles according to Claim ~~[[9]]~~ 12 further comprising

said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles having a back face substantially parallel to said contoured front face of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles, said first alternative corner header of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles comprising a first projecting portion, a second projecting portion and an end-recessed portion for each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles, said end-recessed portion located between said first projecting portion and said second projecting portion of said first corner header of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles;

said second alternative corner header of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles comprising a first opposite projecting portion, a first inner recessed portion, a second inner recessed portion and an opposite recessed portion, said first opposite projecting portion adjacent to said first inner recessed portion of said second alternative corner header of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles, said second inner recessed portion adjacent to said contoured front face of each of said plurality of corner masonry articles, said opposite recessed portion located between said first inner recessed portion and said second inner recessed portion of said second alternative corner header of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles, said second alternative corner header of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles located on a portion of said back face of each of said plurality of alternate corner masonry articles, so that said first alternative corner header of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles couples to said second header of one of said plurality of masonry articles and said second alternative corner header of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles couples to one other first header of one other of said plurality of masonry articles to provide the alternative corner portion of the wall.

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18. (Original) The collection of interlocking masonry articles according to Claim 17 further comprising

an alternative corner end of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles, said alternative corner end opposite said first alternative corner header of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles, said alternative corner end of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles having a front-end face, a surface of said front-end face of said alternative corner end of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles having an elevated portion and said elevated portion of the surface of said front-end face of said alternative corner end of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles adjacent to an indented portion of the surface of said front-end face of said alternative corner end of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles,

said indented portion of the surface of said front-end face of said alternative corner end of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles extending from said second alternative corner header to said contoured front face of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles; a surface of said contoured front face of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles having an elevated portion and said elevated portion of the surface of said contoured front face of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles adjacent to an indented portion of the surface of said contoured front face of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles, said indented portion of said contoured front face extending from said alternative corner end to said first alternative corner header of each of said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles so that the outward face of the alternative corner portion of the wall assembled with said plurality of alternative corner masonry articles provide the appearance of

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the mortar-like vertically oriented gap and the mortar-like horizontally oriented gap.

19. (Currently Amended) The collection of interlocking masonry articles according to Claim [[9]] 12 wherein each of said interlocking masonry articles has a first header, a second header, a contoured upper base and a lower base, said contoured upper base of each of said interlocking masonry articles comprising a channel extending substantially horizontally from said first header to said second header of each of said interlocking masonry articles and when a portion of said contoured upper base of one of said interlocking masonry articles couples to a portion of said lower base of a combination of a plurality of said interlocking masonry articles said channel providing an opening, said opening for accommodating a reinforcing rod and said opening for accommodating mortar.

20. (Currently Amended) The collection of interlocking masonry articles according to Claim 19 wherein each of said interlocking masonry articles has a ~~plurality of holes~~ at least one hole extending from said upper base to said contoured lower base of each of said interlocking masonry articles, each of said ~~plurality of holes~~ at least one hole for accommodating a substantially vertically oriented reinforcing rod within each of said ~~plurality of holes~~ at least one hole and for accommodating mortar within each of ~~plurality of holes~~ at least one hole.

21. (Cancelled)

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22. (New) A method for assembling a portion of a wall comprising the steps of:

providing a first header and a second header for each of a plurality of masonry articles, said first header of each of said plurality of masonry articles comprising a first projecting portion, a second projecting portion and an end-recessed portion of each of said plurality of masonry articles, said end-recessed portion located between said first projecting portion and said second projecting portion of said first header of each of said plurality of masonry articles and said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles comprising a first opposite projecting portion, a second opposite projecting portion, a first inner recessed portion, a second inner recessed portion and an opposite recessed portion of each of said plurality of masonry articles, said first opposite projecting portion adjacent to said first inner recessed portion of said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles, said second opposite projecting portion adjacent to said second inner recessed portion of said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles, said opposite recessed portion located between said first inner recessed portion and said second inner recessed portion of said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles so that said first header of each of said plurality of masonry articles couples to one other second header of one other of said plurality of masonry articles and said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles couples to said other first header of one other of said plurality of masonry articles to provide the portion of the wall;

coupling a contoured portion of said first header of each of said plurality of masonry articles to a contoured portion of another second header of another one of said plurality of masonry articles;

coupling a contoured portion of said second header of each one of said plurality of masonry articles to a contoured portion of one other first header of

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one other of said plurality of masonry articles so that an outward face of a portion of a wall assembled with said plurality of masonry articles has a mortar-like vertically oriented gap;

assembling said plurality of masonry articles to provide a portion of the wall having a contoured front face, each of said plurality of masonry articles having a lower base and a contoured upper base, said contoured upper base of each of said plurality of masonry articles comprising a channel extending substantially horizontally from said first header to said second header of each of said plurality of masonry articles; and

coupling a portion of said contoured upper base of each of said plurality of masonry articles to a portion of a lower base of one of the other plurality of masonry articles so that the outward face of the portion of the wall assembled with all of said plurality of masonry articles has a mortar-like horizontally oriented gap.

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23. (New) The method according to Claim 22 further comprising the steps of:

coupling the portion of said lower base of said plurality of masonry articles to the portion of said contoured upper base of one other of said plurality of masonry articles, said channel of each one of said plurality of masonry articles defining an opening;

providing each one of said plurality of masonry articles has at least one hole extending from said upper base to said contoured lower base;

off-setting a course of said plurality of masonry articles relative to another course of said plurality of masonry articles, each one of said plurality of masonry articles of said another course having at least one hole to vertically align said at least one hole of said course of said plurality of masonry articles to said at least one hole of said another course of said plurality of masonry articles;

providing at least one substantially vertically oriented reinforcing rod;

providing at least one substantially horizontally oriented reinforcing rod;

positioning said at least one substantially horizontally oriented reinforcing rod within said opening of at least one of said plurality of masonry articles;

positioning said at least one substantially vertically oriented reinforcing rod within said at least one hole of at least one of said plurality of masonry articles; and

pouring mortar into said at least one hole to substantially fill said opening of each one of said plurality of masonry articles thereby adhering said course of said plurality of masonry articles to said another course of said plurality of masonry articles when the mortar sets.